



Appointment of Professor Akiko Iwasaki to Scientific Advisory Board

- *Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Immunology at Yale University*
 - *Principal investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute*
- *Brings extensive experience in Immunology within the field of infectious diseases, most recently in COVID-19*

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LONDON & BOSTON – 4BIO Capital (“4BIO” or “the Group”), an international venture capital firm focused solely on the advanced therapies sector, announces the appointment of Professor Akiko Iwasaki to its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Professor Iwasaki has made significant contributions towards understanding innate and adaptive immunity. Throughout her research career she has made major breakthroughs including the demonstration of tissue-specific properties of dendritic cells, how DNA vaccines elicit an immune response, and being the first group to create a mouse model of vaginal Zika infection. She has received a number of honours in her career including the Inspiring Yale awards in 2017 and 2020, and being elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2018 and to the National Academy of Medicine in 2019. Her publications in prestigious journals have been widely cited, and she is also well known as an advocate for women in science.

Professor Iwasaki is currently the Waldemar Von Zedwitz Professor in the Department of Immunology and a Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at Yale University, where her team is studying immune responses to influenza in the lungs and herpes simplex virus in the genital tract. Her long-term goal is to design effective vaccines or microbicides to prevent transmission of viral and bacterial pathogens.

Professor Iwasaki’s wealth of experience in Immunology will be a true asset to 4BIO’s SAB. Whilst running her own lab at Yale University, Professor Iwasaki has developed a novel two-stage vaccination method strategy called “prime and pull”, which is currently being used in a vaccine in clinical trials to treat women with precancerous cervical lesions. Most recently, her work has been focussed on investigating the immune responses of COVID-19 patients and sex differences in SARS-CoV-2 infection. In addition to her work at Yale, Professor Iwasaki is also a principal investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, where her current research focus is mechanisms of innate recognition of viral pathogens and antiviral immunity.

Professor Iwasaki received her bachelors in biochemistry and physics and doctoral degree in Immunology from the University of Toronto and carried out her Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Health.

Dmitry Kuzmin, Managing Partner at 4BIO Capital, said: *“We are delighted to welcome Professor Iwasaki to 4BIO’s Scientific Advisory Board. Her pioneering research and unrivalled knowledge in the field of Immunology is a huge asset to our growing team of experts. Professor Iwasaki is a champion of both women in science and young career academics, which we hope to continue and support through her place on the 4BIO SAB.”*

Professor Akiko Iwasaki said: “I am excited to join 4BIO’s Scientific Advisory Board. I am particularly interested in contributing my expertise in basic immunology and virology to help advance promising technologies for the treatment of a variety of chronic diseases.”

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About 4BIO Capital

4BIO Capital is an international venture capital firm focused solely on the advanced therapies sector.

4BIO’s objective is to invest in, support, and grow early stage companies developing treatments in areas of high unmet medical need, with the ultimate goal of ensuring access to these potentially curative therapies for all patients. Specifically, it looks for viable, high-quality opportunities in cell and gene therapy, RNA-based therapy, targeted therapies, and the microbiome.

The 4BIO team comprises leading advanced therapy scientists and experienced life science investors who have collectively published over 250 scientific articles in prestigious academic journals including *Nature*, *The Lancet*, *Cell*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. 4BIO has both an unrivalled network within the advanced therapy sector and a unique understanding of the criteria that define a successful investment opportunity in this space.

For more information, please visit www.4biocapital.com